

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ET, SHUM, PINT, US
SUBJECT: MEDIA ATTACKS U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS STANCE

REF: ADDIS ABABA 2754

SUMMARY: MAY 20 ETHIOPIAN HERALD ARTICLES AND EDITORIAL
ATTACKED U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS STANCE AND WESTERN PRESS
COVERAGE OF ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION. GENERAL THEMES WERE USG
AND WESTERN MEDIA SUPPORT BOURGEOIS RIGHTS, PARTICULARLY
PROPERTY RIGHTS OF OVERTHROWN RULING CLASS, AND
INTERNATIONAL BOURGEOIS PRESS CONDUCTING COORDINATED
CAMPAIGN TO DISCREDIT ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION. ARTICLES
ALSO PROVIDED SOME INFORMATION ON PRE-MAY DAY VIOLENCE
IN ADDIS. END SUMMARY.

1. ARTICLE ENTITLED "CONCEPTION OF BOURGEOIS RIGHTS"
BEGAN BY NOTING "IMPERIALISM, SPEARHEADED BY CIA, HAS
LAUNCHED VICTIOUS AND COORDINATED CAMPAIGN AGAINST
ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE AND REVOLUTION ALLEGING VIOLATIONS OF
HUMAN RIGHTS IN ETHIOPIA. ARTICLE THEN PROCEEDED TO
EXAMINE U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD. U. . ATTACKED FOR
EXTERMINATING INDIANS AND STEALING THEIR LAND.
HANDFUL REMAINING INDIANS "KEPT IN SEGREGATED CAMPS
KNOWN AS RESERVATIONS". BOURGEOIS REVOLUTIONARIES
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WASHINGTON AND JEFFERSON INTERESTED ONLY IN DEFENDING
PROPERTY RIGHTS. WILSON PORTRAYED AS WARMONGER IN
COMPARISON TO PACIFIC LENIN. WILSONIAN "POLICY OF
WAR" GUIDING FORCE USG SINCE WORLD WAR I, AND
MANUFACTURE MILITARY ARMAMENT LUCRATIVE BUSINESS.
USG ARMED AND FINANCED IMPERIALIST WORLD WAR I, WORLD
WAR II, KOREAN WAR AND VIETNAM WAR AND DESTROYED

TWO JAPANESE CITIES IN 1945 WITH "BESTIAL" ATOMIC BOMB ATTACKS. USG AND MEDIA ACCUSED OF SUPPRESSING NEWS 1973-74 ETHIOPIAN FAMINE TO AVOID EMBARRASSING HAILE SALASSIE. AT SAME TIME USG USED ETHIOPIAN TERRITORY AS MILITARY, INTELLIGENCE AND SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS BASE TO CONTAIN NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. U.S. AND REACTIONARY ARABS HAVE LAUNCHED COORDINATED CAMPAIGNS TO DESTROY REVOLUTION, NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ETHIOPIA. ADDING INSULT TO INJURY, IMPERIALIST MEDIA HAVE BEGUN YET ANOTHER SERIES OF COORDINATED FALSIFICATIONS ALLEGING HUMAN RIGHTS BEING VIOLATED IN ETHIOPIA, WHEREAS REALITY IS THAT HUMAN RIGHTS AND PERSONAL FREEDOM OF ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE BEING RESPECTED FOR FIRST TIME IN HISTORY.

2. COMPANION ARTICLE ENTITLED "VICIOUS IMPERIALIST ATTACK AGAINST ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION" CENTERED ON WESTERN PRESS "DISTORTIONS". EPMG PORTRAYED TO WEST AS "OPPRESSORS" WHILE EDU, EPRP AND ELG-PLF DEPICTED AS "DEMOCRATS" AND "FREEDOM FIGHTERS". GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS ARE REPORTED AS "KILLED", WHILE OPPOSITION INVARILY "MASSACRED". AFTER STATING PRESS REPORTS OF STUDENT MASSACRES APRIL 29-30 SIMPLE FABRICATION, ARTICLE PROCEEDED TO JUSTIFY PRE-MAY DAY EVENTS (REFTEL) AND NECESSITY OF REVOLUTIONARY MEASURES TO SUPPRESS COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY OPPONENTS. ARTICLE MENTIONED APRIL 27 ATTACKS BY EPRP ANARCHO-TERRORIST CIA-HIRED ASSASSIN GROUP, WHICH KILLED NINE REVOLUTIONARIES, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND APRIL 29 DEATH OF 14 EPRP MEMBERS KILLED WHEN BOMB THROWN AT KEBELE HEADQUARTERS EXPLODED PREMATURELY. ARTICLE ALSO STATED THAT, IN ATTEMPT DISRUPT MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS, EPRP HELD ANTI-PEOPLE AND ANTI-REVOLUTION RALLY AND DEMONSTRATION EVENING APRIL 29 IN PROCESS OPENED FIRE ON REVOLUTIONARY DEFENSE SQUADS OF KEBELES.

3. COMMENT: WHILE IT MAY NEVER BE EXACTLY CLEAR HOW EVENTS DEVELOPED ON APRIL 29, EPRP-SPONSORED RALLIES DID OCCUR, AND MASS KILLINGS OF ANTI-GOVERNMENT INDIVIDUALS AND INNOCENT BYSTANDERS RESULTED. EPMG OBVIOUSLY SENSITIVE TO "MASSACRE" REPORTS IN WORLD PRESS, OR IT WOULD NOT HAVE RISKED REVIVING THIS SUBJECT BEFORE ETHIOPIAN READERSHIP, WHICH KNOWS WELL ENOUGH WHETHER MASSACRE TOOK PLACE.

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Sent Date: 20-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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